




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2024

**BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS AND
OTHER LEGISLATION BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (11.49 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Before I start, Mr Speaker, I want to congratulate you on being elected to the high office of Speaker. Also as it is my first speech in the 58th Parliament, I wish to congratulate all new members and returning members to this chamber.

Mr Bleijie interjection.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, it is the member for Theodore who has the call.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your protection. I want to talk specifically about the Olympics. Given that my electorate is positioned on the northern Gold Coast—the green behind the gold—it had a lot to do with the Commonwealth Games in 2018. The 2018 Commonwealth Games left some wonderful legacy projects in the region of the Gold Coast. However, it is very important to properly review these processes to ensure that we have legacies that will be generational.

We all enjoy the Queen Street Mall. We all visit the Queen Street Mall. People throughout South-East Queensland and even people from as far away as Townsville or other areas enjoy the Queen Street Mall when they come to Brisbane. The Queen Street Mall was a legacy project of the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. It was opened by Queen Elizabeth for the Commonwealth Games. It was a legacy project that has seen generation after generation of people coming to this region, and that is why it is so important that we get this right.

At the moment some 1,200 days have passed since we received the Olympic Games tick, yet nothing has happened. Residents in my area continually ask me, 'Mark, what is happening with the Olympic Games? Is it still going ahead?' The issue is that we need to be extremely thoughtful about legacies going forward because it will put Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Queensland on the map. It will be an Olympic city. Before the Commonwealth Games came to Brisbane, Brisbane was known as a big country town. After the Commonwealth Games, it became a city. It was recognised as a city. We need these legacy projects from these big events, and there is no bigger event on earth than the Olympic Games.

The Gold Coast relies on tourism. We rely on a healthy tourism market, and that is why the legacy of these games and preparing these games is critically important for us. We all remember what happened with the Commonwealth Games in 2018 in my electorate. There was such a fear campaign that there was going to be traffic chaos that people stayed away. Locals stayed away from the Commonwealth Games. Therefore, as part of a review process, we need to ensure that we learn from these mistakes because they hurt local businesses economically and they destroyed that boost that they were hoping to get. They were hoping to get that massive boost from the financial windfall from all

of those tourists coming to the games, but the issue was that a lot of locals stayed away. They decided to go on holidays elsewhere because they were warned to stay away because they were told it was going to be an infrastructure nightmare with traffic jams all over the place. The residents in my electorate have never had a better trip down the M1 motorway after the Commonwealth Games chair Peter Beattie scared the bejesus out of every single resident on the northern Gold Coast.

Mr Minnikin: Genius!

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take that interjection. That is why we need to ensure that the legacy of these Olympic Games hits the mark, and that is why we need the Games Independent Infrastructure Coordination Authority to conduct a proper review.